

BY: Senator PARKER

HONORING the Young, Gifted, & Black Entrepreneurial Awards for its continued commitment to celebrating cultural leadership, global citizenship, and community empowerment, and for bestowing the Global Citizen Icon Award upon Oseadeeyo Kwasi Akuffo III

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend institutions and initiatives that preserve cultural heritage, advance global unity, and uplift communities through principled stewardship, visionary leadership, and service grounded in tradition and innovation; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor the Young, Gifted, & Black Entrepreneurial Awards, upon the occasion of its presentation of the Global Citizen Icon Award in Cultural Identity, Diaspora Advancement, and Socioeconomic Empowerment on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, celebrating exemplary leadership rooted in culture, service, and global responsibility; and

WHEREAS, Established in 2006 by founder Carl Gray, the Young, Gifted, & Black Entrepreneurial Awards is a nonprofit organization dedicated to recognizing and celebrating distinguished individuals of color whose leadership and service have made lasting global impact, while uplifting excellence grounded in community, culture, and purpose; and

WHEREAS, In furtherance of this mission, the Young, Gifted, & Black Entrepreneurial Awards has selected Oseadeeyo Kwasi Akuffo III, the 26th occupant of the Ofori Kuma Stool of Akuapem and King of the Akuapems (Okuapehene), as the recipient of the Global Citizen Icon Award in Cultural Identity, Diaspora Advancement, and Socioeconomic Empowerment, in recognition of his exemplary stewardship of tradition, commitment to socioeconomic advancement, and leadership within the global African diaspora; and

WHEREAS, Born Odehye Kwadwo Kesse Antwi on February 24, 1986, Oseadeeyo Kwasi Akuffo III ascended the Ofori Kuma Stool on May 3, 2020, following his selection as the eligible heir to his late uncle, Oseadeeyo Addo Dankwa III, thereby continuing a revered lineage of traditional authority, cultural guardianship, and service to the Akuapem people; and

WHEREAS, Rooted in royal heritage through both parental lineages of the Agona and Asona clans, His Majesty embodies the values of discipline, faith, service, and leadership instilled through an upbringing dedicated to cultural continuity and national service; and

WHEREAS, His Majesty pursued academic and professional excellence in

Ghana and the United States, completing his secondary education at Presbyterian Boys' High School (PRESEC) in Legon, Ghana, earning an Associate of Applied Science in Business Administration from Westchester Community College in Valhalla, New York-where he was inducted into the Alpha Beta Gamma Business Honor Society-and later earning a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Mercy College in Dobbs Ferry, New York; and

WHEREAS, While residing in New York City, Oseadeeyo Kwasi Akuffo III gained extensive experience in hospitality management, operations, and entrepreneurship, holding leadership roles at The Mark Hotel, Empire City Casino, and Crowne Plaza Times Square, and founding American Link Estates LLC, reflecting a global perspective shaped by diaspora engagement; and

WHEREAS, Upon returning to Ghana, His Majesty co-founded Jupe Global Company Limited, a business consulting and investment facilitation firm committed to transforming emerging and struggling enterprises into sustainable ventures across agriculture, waste recycling, healthcare, and technology, aligning economic growth with social responsibility; and

WHEREAS, As Okuapehene, Oseadeeyo Kwasi Akuffo III has articulated a forward-looking vision for peace, unity, justice, and sustainable development within Okuapeman, working collaboratively with traditional authorities and government institutions to advance education, industrialization, youth empowerment, poverty alleviation, and the preservation of Akuapem customs and laws; and

WHEREAS, In furtherance of this vision, His Majesty established the Oseadeeyo Kwasi Akuffo Foundation (OKWAF), a philanthropic initiative dedicated to expanding access to healthcare, education, and sustainable employment, with particular emphasis on supporting schools for the blind and deaf, rural students, aged citizens, and low-income families throughout Okuapeman and Ghana's Eastern Region; and

WHEREAS, Through his leadership, philanthropy, and lived experience within the African diaspora, Oseadeeyo Kwasi Akuffo III exemplifies the ideals of cultural preservation, socioeconomic empowerment, and transnational engagement that define responsible modern traditional leadership; and

WHEREAS, The Global Citizen Icon Award in Cultural Identity, Diaspora Advancement, and Socioeconomic Empowerment, bestowed by the Young, Gifted, & Black Entrepreneurial Awards, fittingly reflects the organization's mission to honor leaders who strengthen global Black identity while advancing inclusive development rooted in heritage and innovation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor the Young, Gifted, & Black Entrepreneurial Awards for its continued commitment to celebrating cultural leadership, global citizenship, and community empowerment, and for bestowing the Global Citizen Icon Award upon Oseadeeyo Kwasi Akuffo III; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Young, Gifted, & Black Entrepreneurial Awards and to Oseadeeyo Kwasi Akuffo III, as a lasting expression of the highest respect and esteem of this Legislative Body.